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EXAMINER				
MONIKANG, GEORGE C				
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

OFFICEACTIONS@FDML.COM

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/612,429

Applicant(s)

LIU ET AL.

Examiner

GEORGE C. MONIKANG

Art Unit

2614

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 January 2010.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 5-9, 14 and 17-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 5-9, 14 & 17-24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB-08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1, 5, 7, 14, 18 & 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Foote et al, US Patent 7015954 B1.

Re Claim 1, Foote et al discloses a method for managing audio devices located at a live event during the live event (col. 1, lines 33-40: the background information discloses a desire to improve on camera systems typically used for surveillance, security purposes; and it is inherent that security cameras and surveillance cameras are used to capture live event and transmit them to a user at a second location remote from the location of the surveillance), comprising: capturing video content of the live event at a first location (col. 1, lines 33-40: the background information discloses a desire to improve on camera systems typically used for surveillance, security purposes; and it is inherent that security cameras and surveillance cameras are used to capture live event and transmit them to a user at a second location remote from the location of the surveillance), wherein different areas of the video content, corresponding to different areas of the live event are associated with a plurality of audio devices located at the first location (col. 3, lines 16-24: plurality of directional microphones are associated with different areas of a scene such that if any of the microphones pick up sound of interest from a particular region, the user at a remote second location may select that region for the camera at that region to zoom-in, pan closer etc), the audio device capturing audio originating from the different areas in the live event (col. 3, lines 16-24: plurality of directional microphones are associated with different areas of a scene such that if any of the microphones pick up sound of interest from a particular region, the user at a remote second location may select that region for the camera at that region to zoom-in,

pan closer etc); providing the video content of the live event captured at the first location to a user at a second location during the live event wherein the video content is displayed to the user in a graphical user interface (GUI) that enables (col. 1, lines 33-40: the background information discloses a desire to improve on camera systems typically used for surveillance, security purposes; and it is inherent that security cameras and surveillance cameras are used to capture live event and transmit them to a user at a second location remote from the location of the surveillance; in col. 3, lines 11, it states that the output and display of the scenes captured by the camera could provide the camera captured scene/images to a user at another device at a remote location) that enables the user to select regions of the displayed video content to receive audio from different audio devices at the live event associated with the selected regions (col. 3, lines 16-24: plurality of directional microphones are associated with different areas of a scene such that if any of the microphones pick up sound of interest from a particular region, the user at a remote second location may select that region for the camera at that region to zoom-in, pan closer etc; claim 11 also further states that selecting of an image of interest by a user could be done by detection of sound by audio sources within the area, wherein the camera will pan, zoom to that area); receiving a selection of a first region of the video content, the selection made by a user during the live event, and within the video content shown in the GUI (col. 3, lines 16-24: plurality of directional microphones are associated with different areas of a scene such that if any of the microphones pick up sound of interest from a particular region, the user at a remote second location may select that region for the camera at that region to zoom-in, pan

closer etc; claim 11 also further states that selecting of an image of interest by a user could be done by detection of sound by audio sources within the area, wherein the camera will pan, zoom to that area); determining which audio devices at the first location are associated with the first region (col. 3, lines 16-24: plurality of directional microphones are associated with different areas of a scene such that if any of the microphones pick up sound of interest from a particular region, the user at a remote second location may select that region for the camera at that region to zoom-in, pan closer etc; claim 11 also further states that selecting of an image of interest by a user could be done by detection of sound by audio sources within the area, wherein the camera will pan, zoom to that area. By selecting that area, for camera zoom-in/panning, the user is effectively selecting the microphone device associated with that area); selecting a first audio device at the first location associated with the first region (col. 3, lines 16-24: plurality of directional microphones are associated with different areas of a scene such that if any of the microphones pick up sound of interest from a particular region, the user at a remote second location may select that region for the camera at that region to zoom-in, pan closer etc; claim 11 also further states that selecting of an image of interest by a user could be done by detection of sound by audio sources within the area, wherein the camera will pan, zoom to that area. By selecting that area, for camera zoom-in/panning, the user is effectively selecting the microphone device associated with that area); and providing live audio from the selected first audio device at the first location to the user at a second location (col. 3, lines 16-24: plurality of directional microphones are associated with different areas of a scene such that if any

of the microphones pick up sound of interest from a particular region, the user at a remote second location may select that region for the camera at that region to zoom-in, pan closer etc; claim 11 also further states that selecting of an image of interest by a user could be done by detection of sound by audio sources within the area, wherein the camera will pan, zoom to that area. By selecting that area, for camera zoom-in/panning, the user is effectively selecting the microphone device associated with that area).

Claims 5, 7, 14, 18 & 20 have been analyzed and rejected according to claim 1.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

3. Claims 6, 17, 21 & 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Foote et al, US Patent 7015954 B1 as applied to claim 5 above, in view of official notice.

Re Claim 6, which further recites, "Wherein the parameters include signal to noise ratio." Foote et al does not explicitly disclose a signal to noise ratio as claimed. Official notice is taken that both the concepts and advantages of providing a signal to noise ratio are well known in the art. It would have been obvious to use a signal to noise ratio since it is commonly used to identify the amount of background noise interference in a sound signal as a means to select the audio devices.

Claim 17 have been analyzed and rejected according to claim 6.

Claim 21 has been analyzed and rejected according to claims 1 & 6.

Re Claim 24, which further recites, "Wherein the audio device includes a far-field microphone and a close-talking microphone" as claimed. Foote et al fails to disclose a far-field microphone and a close-talking microphone as claimed. Official notice is taken that both the concepts and advantages of providing a far-field and close-talking microphone are well known in the art. Thus it would have been obvious to provide far-field and close-talking microphones to capture various sounds at the live event to provide a viewer with a realistic sound of the live event.

4. Claims 8 & 22-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Foote et al, US Patent 7015954 B1 as applied to claim 1 above, in view of official notice.

Re Claim 8, Foote et al discloses the method of claim 1, but fails to explicitly providing 2-way audio between the user and a second user, the user located at a remote location and the second user located at a first location associated with the video

content. However, official notice is taken that both the concepts and advantages of providing a two-way communication between 2 users are well known in the art. Thus, it would have been obvious to modify the security/surveillance camera system of Foote et al such that a security officer at the location of the camera could communicate with a personnel/user at a remote location for the purpose of providing a more efficient security/surveillance system.

Claim 22 has been analyzed and rejected according to claim 8.

Claim 23 has been analyzed and rejected according to claims 1 & 8.

1. Claims 9 & 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Foote et al, US Patent 7015954 B1 as applied to claim 1 above, in view of Rui et al, US Patent 7349005 B2.

Re Claim 9, Foote et al discloses the method of claim 1, but fail to disclose further comprising: automatically selecting a second region of the video content, the second region of the video content including at least one second area of the video content associated with a second weight and selected as a result of detecting motion in the video content (col. 3, lines 16-24: plurality of motion detectors are associated with different areas of a scene such that if any of the motion detectors pick up motion from a particular region, the user at a remote second location may select that region for the camera at that region to zoom-in, pan closer etc. By selecting that area, for camera zoom-in/panning, the user is effectively selecting the microphone device associated with that area), the first region of the video content including at least one area of the video

content associated with a first weight (*col. 3, lines 16-24: plurality of directional microphones are associated with different areas of a scene such that if any of the microphones pick up sound of interest from a particular region, the user at a remote second location may select that region for the camera at that region to zoom-in, pan closer etc. By selecting that area, for camera zoom-in/panning, the user is effectively selecting the microphone device associated with that area*). Though, the Foote et al system discloses two different embodiments were two different weights (motion detection & directive microphones for sound pick-up) are used to determine the selection of image to be viewed along with the sound associated with that image, the Foote et al system does not explicitly disclose applying different weights to the two different embodiments such that, the embodiments are used together and priority given to the embodiment with a higher weight. However, Rui et al discloses a camera system where a first rule and a second rule are utilized, an wherein the first rule has greater weight, such that when the first rule and the second rule conflict, the first rule is applied due to its greater weight (*Rui et al, col. 23, line 63 though col. 24, line 23*). It would be obvious to modify the two embodiments of Foote et al, such that they are utilized as one embodiment of the system wherein greater weight is designated to an embodiment of the user's choice as taught in Rui et al for the purpose of creating a more dynamic camera system.

Claim 19 has been analyzed and rejected according to claim 9.

Contact

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **GEORGE C. MONIKANG** whose telephone number is (571)270-1190. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F. alt Fri. Off 7:30am-5:00pm (est).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Chin Vivian can be reached on 571-272-7848. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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Examiner, Art Unit 2614

3/18/2010

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